Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Ninth session
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda[*]
Plenary round-table panel on rethinking data availability
and data systems in Africa to address multiple shocks and
accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa
We Want, of the African Union

Information and guidelines for the plenary round table on data and statistics

I. Date, time and venue

1.   The round-table panel will be held on Wednesday, 1 March 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Plenary Hall.

II. Introduction

2.   High-quality data and statistics are indispensable for designing, implementing and reporting on policies and programmes at all levels to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. Assessments of progress made and the effects of overlapping crises, including the climate change crisis, coronavirus disease pandemic, the war in Ukraine and growing debt stress among African countries, have demonstrated the need to generate adequate, timely and accurate data and statistics to ensure an effective response and recovery from those crises and to make progress in implementing the two agendas. The assessments carried out and the crises that have taken place have shown that existing data and statistics and the underlying data systems are inadequate and have suggested a need for greater effectiveness on the part of data systems and key data stakeholders with respect to the ways in which data are generated, managed, shared and used.

3.   Against this backdrop, it is crucial to rethink data availability and data systems in the context of the current crises and the looming 2030 deadline for the attainment of the Goals. This is because planning for efficient and effective attainment of the targets and crisis recovery measures require data-informed and evidence-based policies, plans and programmes.

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[*] ECA/RFSD/2023/1.

III. Objectives

4. The objectives of the round-table panel are as follows:

(a) To spotlight the importance of accurate data and effective data systems for crisis response and recovery and for scaling up the implementation of the two agendas;

(b) To highlight and share past experiences and lessons learned in data generation and data availability for the implementation of the two agendas and in responses to various shocks;

(c) To identify, articulate and address challenges and opportunities in ensuring the effectiveness of data systems so that high-quality data can be generated and managed in a timely manner and made more readily available to various stakeholders, including emerging stakeholders;

(d) To identify and articulate the transformative initiatives and investments that are needed to boost the generation, accessibility and use of accurate, up-to-date and disaggregated data and statistics, with a view to mitigating the effects of the various crises and accelerating the implementation of the two agendas.

IV. Guidelines

5. The following guidelines will apply to the plenary round-table panel discussion:

(a) The Chair will outline the aforementioned objectives of the discussion and introduce the moderator and panel members listed in section V. The Chair will then yield to the moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and other participants;

(b) The moderator will invite each panellist to respond to the following specific questions and catalyse an interactive discussion among the panellists;

(i) How have accurate data and statistics strengthened the implementation, monitoring and reporting of measures designed to allow countries to respond to the various crises and achieve the two agendas?

(ii) What are the key challenges and opportunities in increasing data availability and strengthening data systems, given the emerging issues and the need for accelerated implementation of the two agendas?

(iii) What support should national, regional and global partners provide to strengthen data availability and data systems?

(iv) What are the lessons learned from your country's experience and what targeted and transformative investments should countries make to scale up implementation of the two agendas and to ensure that, given the current crises and the potential for future crises, data availability is protected and data systems are effective?

(v) What are your recommendations to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to enhance data availability and strengthen data systems so that the necessary data are available for crisis response measures and the implementation of the two agendas?

(c)   The moderator will invite questions and comments from the floor;

(d)   At the end of the discussion, the moderator will summarize the key policy messages, including the recommendations made, before yielding to the Chair, who will conclude the round-table panel discussion.

V.   Chair, moderator and panellists

6.   The Chair, moderator and panellists for the round-table panel discussion will be as follows:

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the ninth session of the Forum

Moderator: Director, African Centre for Statistics, ECA, Oliver Chinganya

Panellists:

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

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